



United States Attorney's Office Western District of Pennsylvania

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GRAND JURY CHARGES MARS, PA. MAN FOR FAILING TO FILE INCOME TAXES

United States Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan announced today, March 27, 2007, that a resident of Mars, Pennsylvania, has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Pittsburgh on charges of Willful Failure to File Income Tax Returns.

The 3-count indictment charges that Bernard J. Petras failed to file tax returns for the years 2000 through 2002. Petras allegedly had income in excess of \$264,000.00 during the three year period.

Assistant United States Attorney Kay B. Lee, who presented the case to the grand jury, indicated that the law provides for a maximum total sentence of 3 years in prison, a fine of \$300,000.00, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed would be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

The Internal Revenue Service/Criminal Investigation conducted the investigation leading to the indictment in this case.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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